<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 31-53 have been added to the application and the specification has been amended
to correct certain typographical and grammatical errors.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be examined. Enclosed is a $834.00 check for excess claim
fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

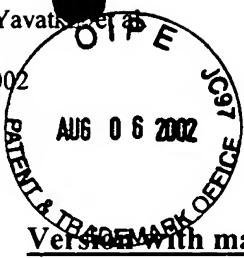Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 has been amended as follows:

This [invention] application relates generally to routers and switches, and more particularly, to achieving a scalable and distributed implementation of a control protocol.

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6 has been amended as follows:

Routers and switches, hereinafter [refer] referred to collectively as routers, route (that is, direct and control) the flow of data packets between computers. Routers direct and control the flow of packets based on various control protocols, such as Open Shortest Path First protocol ("OSPF"), Routing Information Protocol ("RIP"), Label Distribution Protocol ("LDP"), and Resource reSerVation Protocol ("RSVP").

Paragraph beginning at page 2, line 20 has been amended as follows:

FIG. 1 shows a computer network 10 that includes a plurality of computer networks 10a, 10b, and 10c connected to each other by routers 12, 14, and 16. Each computer network 10a, 10b, and 10c may have one or more computers 18a, 18b, and 18c.

Paragraph beginning at page 3, line 11 has been amended as follows:

The following describe mechanism for distributing a control protocol for routers 12, 14 and 16 between control and forwarding planes. The control protocol is implemented by separating a control protocol into a central control portion implemented on a control-plane 22 (FIG. 2) and an off-load control portion implemented on [a forwarding-plane 24] forwarding-planes 24a, 24b and/or 24c. The present [invention] mechanism achieves a scalable, fault-tolerant implementation of a control protocol that may be scaled to handle hundreds of ports and/or interfaces. The present [invention] mechanism may also handle failure of central control plane software by allowing forwarding planes to continue to respond to control events and operate correctly during a recovery period. The embodiments described herein may be applied to

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all control protocols, e.g., control protocols, for implementing differentiated packet handling as necessary for quality of service, security, etc.